



March 24, 2016

REFUGEE CHILD FACTSHEET

REFUGEES & INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

A **REFUGEE** is someone who is recognized as being forced to leave their country because of war or fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. – *1951 Refugee Convention*

An **ASYLUM SEEKER** is someone who has fled their country because of armed conflict or violence but who has not yet been recognized as a refugee by a host country government.

An **INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSON (IDP)** is a person who is forced to flee their home because of armed conflict or violence but who has not crossed an international border, and thus remains under the protection of their own government, even if their government was the cause of their flight. – *United Nations*

A determination of a person's refugee status cannot be made solely on the basis of their nationality. An individual assessment is required.

The concept of a “**Safe Country**” does not exist in international human rights law.

International human rights law guarantees refugees the following rights:

- The right to housing
- The right to education
- The right to freedom of movement
- The right to work

THE DEADLY MEDITERRANEAN

- **1,015,078** migrants arrived by sea to Europe in 2015*
- **84%** of sea arrivals to Europe come to Greece*
- An average of **1,866** migrants arrived to Greece by sea the first 79 days of 2016*
- **488** migrants are dead or missing while attempting to reach Europe by sea in the first 79 days of 2016*
- Since the death of **Aylan Kurdi**, an average of two children have died every day trying to make the crossing to Europe.¹

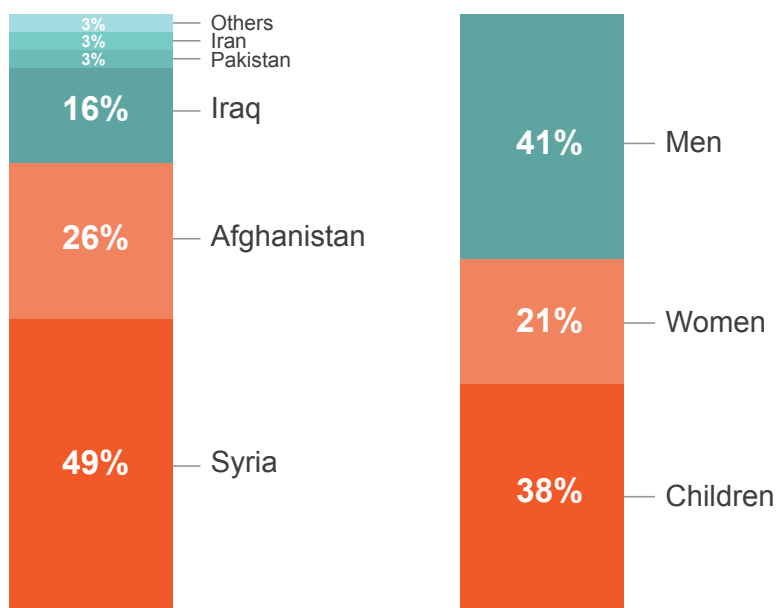


* United Nations High Commission on Refugees

¹ <http://migrantreport.org/two-children-died-every-day-since-alan-kurdi/>



DEMOGRAPHICS OF MEDITERRANEAN SEA ARRIVALS IN 2016*



60% are women and children

91% are from countries in civil war

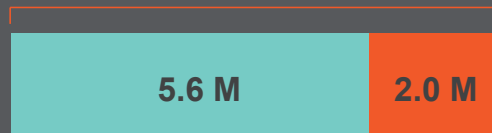
THE SYRIAN CIVIL WAR

The Syrian Civil War began in 2011- over 5 years ago.
The Syrian Civil War is **not a religious conflict**.

Syrians affected by war (16.4 M)



Syrian **children** affected by war (7.6 M)



Internally Displaced
Refugees

THE COMBATANTS IN THE SYRIAN CIVIL WAR INCLUDE:

Syrian government (Al Assad)

Opposition fighters

Allied militias

ISIS/ISIL

* UNHCR data as of March 22, 2016



LIFE AS A SYRIAN REFUGEE CHILD

Many Syrian refugee children can't go to school.

- It is estimated that 3 million (43%) Syrian refugee children are not in school¹
- In Turkey, the largest Syrian refugee population, **only 25% of refugee children are in school**²

Some Syrian refugee children have to work to support their families.

- In Turkey refugee children were found working in sweatshops.³

Many Syrian refugee children do not get enough to eat.

- Malnutrition rates are near 3%⁴
- **6.6 million Syrians are considered “food insecure”**, but only 5.5 million receive food aid and rations from the UN's food program (WFP).⁵

Many other basic needs of Syrian refugee children are not being met.

- Around 10% of Syrian refugees in the Middle East live in camps. ⁶
- Conditions in refugee camps in the Middle East and Europe vary widely: some camps provide shelter, heat, food, school, drinking water and sanitation while others do not.

1 https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/report_pdf/turkey1115_reportcover_web.pdf

2 ibid

3 <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/syrian-children-found-working-for-uk-clothing-suppliers-including-next-and-hm-a6845431.html>

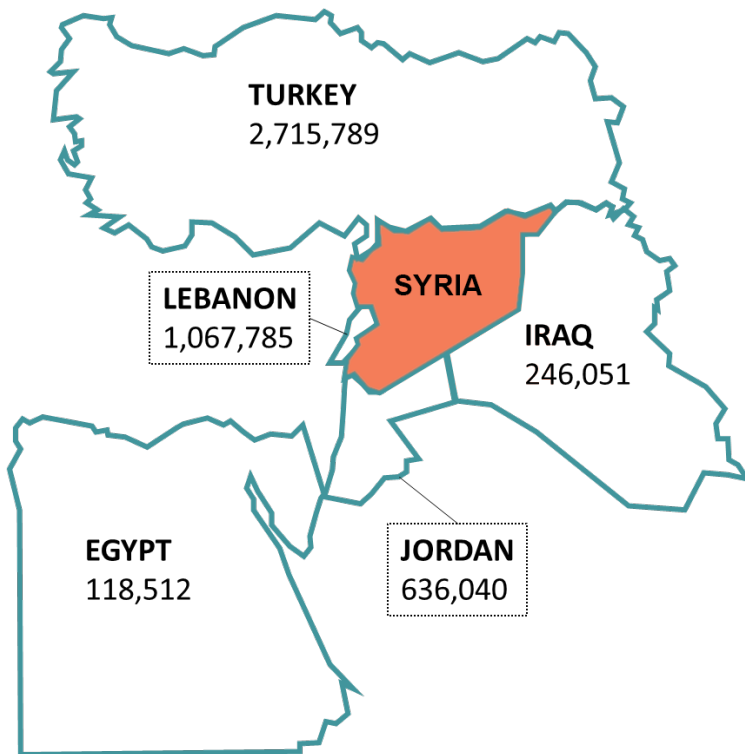
4 <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/dec/14/syrian-children-lack-of-food-irreversible-health-issues-un-world-food-programme>

5 <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/dec/14/syrian-children-lack-of-food-irreversible-health-issues-un-world-food-programme>

6 UNHCR



INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO SYRIA'S CIVIL WAR



Most Syrian refugees remain in the Middle East.*

Only an estimated **10%** of Syrian refugees have fled to European countries.*

The number of Syrian refugees resettled has nothing to do with a country's size or wealth.

The USA, one of the wealthiest and largest countries has resettled only 2,174 Syrian refugees, although the UN has submitted the applications of 32,369 Syrian refugees for consideration by the US.

RESETTLEMENT OF SYRIAN REFUGEES BY COUNTRY*

Country	Population (M)**	Per Capita Gross National Income (\$)**	Syrian Asylum Applications (2011-2015)*	Syrian refugees resettled / Confirmed pledges for resettlement of Syrians
Norway	5.1	64,992	11,246	9,000 pledged
Switzerland	8.2	56,431	11,974	4,700 humanitarian visas issued to Syrian refugees
USA	322.6	52,947		2,174 Syrian refugees resettled as of Nov. 2015
Sweden	9.6	45,636	105,889	2,700 pledged
Netherlands	16.8	45,435	29,813	500 pledged
Denmark	5.6	44,025	17,913	390 pledged
Germany	82.7	43,919	218,186	41,899 pledged ¹
Austria	8.5	43,869	34,154	1,900 pledged
Australia	23.6	42,261		5,800 Syrian refugees resettled as of March 2016 12,000 pledged by 2020
Canada	35.5	42,155		26,202 resettled as of March 2016 ² 38,089 pledged
Belgium	11.1	41,187	14,850	475 pledged
Ireland	4.7	39,568	149	114 Syrian refugees resettled as of March 2016
UK	63.5	39,267	8,792	216 Syrian refugees resettled as of March 2016 20,000 pledged by 2020
Finland	5.4	38,695	1,127	1,900 pledged
France	64.6	38,056	10,281	2,622 asylum visas issued 1,000 pledged
Italy	61.1	33,030	2,451	1,400 pledged
New Zealand	4.6	32,689		850 pledged
Israel	7.8	30,676	0	0
Spain	47.1	32,045	8,365	984 pledged
Poland	38.2	23,177	757	900 pledged
Turkey	75.8	18,677		2,715,789 Syrian refugees registered in camps
Romania	21.6	18,108	2,470	40 pledged
Lebanon	5.0	16,509		1,067,785 Syrian refugees registered in camps
Iraq	34.8	14,003		246,051 Syrian refugees registered in camps
Jordan	7.5	11,365		636,040 Syrian refugees registered in camps
Egypt	83.4	10,512		118,512 Syrian refugees registered in camps
Brazil	202.0	\$15,175		8,387 humanitarian visas issued to Syrian refugees
Hungary	9.9	\$22,916	72,004	30 pledged

* UNHCR March 2016 (<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/asylum.php>)

** UNDP Human Development Report 2015

¹ <http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2016/1/6/refugees-germany-more-than-1million.html>

² <http://www.vancitybuzz.com/2016/03/syrian-refugees-2016-federal-budget/>